

REMARKS

Claims 7-12 are pending; and of these, claims 7-8 and 10-11 have been amended. Reconsideration of the instant application is respectfully requested in view of this Paper.

The Examiner has rejected claims 7-12 under Section 102(b) as being anticipated by (1) Ishida et al. (USP 6,478,471), and (2) Sawai et al. (USP 6,113,279). With respect to Applicant's claims, as amended, the Examiner's rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicant has amended claims 7-8 and 10-11 to provide that the diameter of the inclined surface expands towards the recited shoulder portion, and that the inclined surface of Applicant's inner ring acts to oppose a pressing force of an annular binding jig, the binding jig resisting a tendency for movement of the inner ring during crimping. In opposing this force, the inclined surface serves to cause the substantial reduction or offsetting of a crimping force extending radially outward relative to the inner ring. This is particularly the case at the interface of the inner shaft and the inner ring.

As explained in Applicant's specification with reference to Fig. 4 thereof, the aforementioned pressing force is represented by the force component P2 exerted by an annular binding jig configured to resist movement of the inner ring. Force P2, as shown, acts to vertically press against the

inclined surface and acts in a direction that is opposite crimping forces P5 and P7, and in particular, force P7 extending radially outward of said inner ring and said inner shaft. In this way, force P7 is substantially reduced or offset by force P2 so as to substantially prevent inclination of, or damage to, the inner ring during crimping.

The inclined surface of the inner ring provides along the entirety thereof a matingly engageable surface for fully receiving thereon contacting portions of the binding jig. Also, the cylindrical surface of the inner ring likewise provides a full seating surface for seating the binding jig thereagainst. Thus, in providing the aforementioned seating surfaces as a function of the recited diameter expansion of Applicant's inclined surface, the step portion of the inner ring member is constructed so as to provide a full seating surface for the binding jig that enables Applicant's recited engagement and seating in order to allow for the substantial reduction or offsetting of the recited forces. Still further, Applicant's recited shoulder similarly provides a full seating surface against which the binding jig is seatable. In these ways, the inner ring is substantially free from axial inclination or damage.

With respect to Ishida et al., it is respectfully submitted that the relative surface portions depicted at page three (3) of the Office Action are not inclined, and therefore do not teach the inclined surface that Applicant recites.

This absence of inclination is clearly shown in Fig. 2. Therefore, on this basis, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Still more, Ishida et al. fails to teach or suggest Applicant's construction of Applicant's inner ring as discussed above. Instead, Ishida et al. merely shows the non-inclined relationship of its inner ring portions; which fails to provide any teaching or suggestion of Applicant's recited inclined surface, diameter expansion thereof, and seating surfaces of Applicant's inner ring.

Thus, Ishida et al. fails to teach or suggest Applicant's construction as recited in Applicant's claims, as amended.

Sawai et al. also fails to teach or suggest Applicant's construction, as recited in Applicant's claims, as amended. More specifically, Sawai et al. merely addresses the abutment of its element 14 with a portion of its inner ring 3 (see Fig. 7), without any discussion of its adjacent inner ring portion(s) providing seating or being engageable with its element 14. Accordingly, the inner ring portion of Sawai et al. fails to teach or suggest Applicant's recited seating surfaces of Applicant's inner ring.

With these failures in their constructions, both Ishida et al. and Sawai et al. are unable to teach or suggest the seating surfaces of Applicant's inner ring that enable the substantial reduction or offsetting of forces which, in the absence

of such seating surfaces being part of such inner ring construction, tend to cause axial inclination or damage to the inner ring.

As also shown hereinabove, Applicant's claims 7 through 8 and 10 through 11 have otherwise been amended to recite the invention therein with greater particularity.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Applicant's claims, as amended, patentably distinguish over Ishida et al. and Sawai et al.

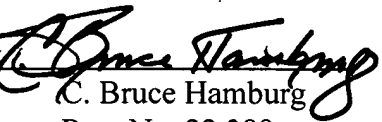
Applicant respectfully requests a three (3) month extension of time for responding to the Office Action. The fee of \$1,110.00 for the extension is provided for in the charge authorization presented in the PTO Form 2038, Credit Card Payment form, provided herewith.

If there is any discrepancy between the fee(s) due and the fee payment authorized in the Credit Card Payment Form PTO-2038 or the Form PTO-2038 is missing or fee payment via the Form PTO-2038 cannot be processed, the USPTO is hereby authorized to charge any fee(s) or fee(s) deficiency or credit any excess payment to Deposit Account No. 10-1250.


In light of the foregoing, the application is now believed to be in proper form for allowance of all claims and notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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